JAMES D. SHANKS

James Dock Shanks was born November 29, 1833, at Paisley, Renfrewshire, Scotland. He came to Utah in September, 1853, crossing the plains with the Jacob Gates company, and settling in Salt Lake City. About the first job he obtained was helping build the wall around the temple block.

He was married December 21, 1855, to Isabella Muir, daughter of James and Mary Murray Muir, pioneers of 1853. Isabella was born August 15, 1837. Their children were Mary E. (Mrs. Gustave Waldberg), Isabella, James M., William, Marian (Mrs. William Doyle), Elizabeth (Mrs. William Fisher), John M., Margaret (Mrs. McEwan), Archibald (married to Lilly Duke), and George A.

On March 10, 1875, he married Eva Erickson at Salt Lake City. She was the daughter of Eric Erickson and Fredericka Carlson of Upland, Sweden, who came to Utah by railroad. Their children were Catrina Amelia, Joseph, Louise, Josephine, Hyrum, Evelyn and Fredericka.

In 1899 he married Carline Homan at Salt Lake City. She was an immigrant from Germany. They had no family.

Anyone who has the sweet memory of being awakened by the music of the martial band on state occasions and celebrations will remember Jimmy Shanks as the leader and fife player of the group. He also took part in the Blackhawk War and was a member of the Thomas Todd Infantry Company. He was for many years the only tailor in our community.

He built three homes in Heber City. The grounds of each home was landscaped and beautified with flowers and shrubbery. He was really what is called today a "green thumber." He experimented with flowers, trees and shrubs to discover the best suited to our climate.

When stake conference convened at the Stake House and when the Sacrament meeting for Heber was held Sunday afternoons there, it was with pride and pleasure he carried beautiful stately bouquets to place on either side of the pulpit, on the three tiers of the rostrum. These bouquets were made with care and exactness, starting with a row of pansies and building up with flox and sweet william that were interspersed with blades of beautiful ribbon grass. They seemed to fit in with the stately stand and building.

In later years he and his good wife, Carrie, continued taking flowers to beautify the Third Ward chapel that had recently been built and of which he was very proud. He was a sincere Latter-day Saint, a High Priest of this stake, a home missionary and at one time superintendent of the Sunday School at Riverdale.

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